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ST. WULSTAN SOCIETY.

Presented by

Mr. Henry S. Marsh

Edwin A. Grover

Executor of the Bonnell Mss.

SIGIL: ST WALSTAN SOC:
·1891·

ST. WULSTAN SOCIETY

ITS

ORIGIN

In grateful appreciation of the acceptance by the St. Wulstan Society of the trust created by the Will of Mrs. Helen C. Knowles for the promotion of Art Education in Worcester this volume is dedicated and presented to the members of the Society by the Executors of her Will.

WORCESTER, MASS.
PRESS OF CHARLES HAMILTON.
1891.

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HARVARD COLLEGE
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LIBRARY.

Henry A. Marsh,
for the Executors.

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ST. WULSTAN SOCIETY.

ORIGIN.

One evening in June, 1890, several gentlemen met by his invitation at the house of Mr. J. Evarts Greene, to consider the subject of forming a Club or Society for social intercourse and the discussion of such topics as might be proposed and approved. Those present were Senator George F. Hoar, Judge Hamilton B. Staples, the Rev. Daniel Merriman, D.D., the Very Rev. John J. Power, D.D., and Mr. Samuel S. Green, besides the host, who read the names of others whom he had asked or wished to ask to join the proposed Club, namely, Mr. Stephen Salisbury, Judge Thomas L. Nelson, Mr. Frank P. Goulding, President G. Stanley Hall, Dr. Leonard Wheeler, Dr. George E. Francis, the Rev. Alexander H. Vinton, D.D., and Mr. Henry A. Marsh. To these was added by common consent, the name of Mr. E. Harlow Russell.

Without formal proceedings it was agreed to form such a Club as had been proposed; that the meetings should be held fortnightly on Friday evenings, and that the first meeting should be held in October, the time and place to be fixed by Mr. Greene, who

undertook to give to each member timely notice thereof.

In accordance with this agreement the Club met on Saturday evening, October 11th, at the house of Senator Hoar. The members present besides Mr. Hoar, were Mr. Salisbury, Judge Nelson, Judge Staples, Mr. Marsh, Dr. Francis, Dr. Wheeler, Mr. S. S. Green, Dr. Hall, Dr. Merriman, Mr. Goulding, Mr. J. Evarts Greene. A committee was appointed to prepare a plan of organization, and Mr. J. Evarts Greene was chosen Secretary.

The subject of conversation, suggested by Mr. Marsh, was in substance: What disposition should be made of the bequest of the late Mrs. Helen C. Knowles, for the advancement of art education in Worcester?

The bequest is expressed in these words:—

[An extract from Mrs. Knowles' will.]

"I direct my executors hereinafter named as soon after the probate of this instrument as the same can practicably and judiciously be done, and within two years from such probate to sell and dispose of the estate situated on Main Street, in Worcester, and now owned and occupied by me, and to devote the proceeds of such sale to the promotion of art education in said Worcester, in such way and manner, either by establishing some organization for that purpose or creating a professorship in some institution already existing in said Worcester, as they shall determine to be most feasible, after consultation with those practically interested in the subject and best adapted to the attainment of my object—the cultivation of a love and taste for art in the community. This to be a memorial of my late husband, Lucius J. Knowles, and to bear his name."

The discussion of this topic may be justly regarded as the origin of ST. WULSTAN SOCIETY as a corporation. For, at the next meeting Mr. Marsh, speaking as a member of the Club and as one of the executors of Mrs. Knowles, said that in his judgment the administration of her bequest for art education might wisely be intrusted to a corporation composed of the members of this Club, and that it was the earnest wish of the executors to be relieved of further responsibility by placing the fund which they held for that purpose in the charge of a corporation so composed. Mr. Marsh read to the Club a letter from his co-executor, Mr. Edward A. Strong of Boston, heartily concurring in this opinion and wish.

Mr. Marsh's suggestion was carefully considered and all objections occurring to any member were presented and discussed, but it was in the end unanimously adopted; and Mr. Hoar, Mr. Goulding and Mr. J. Evarts Greene were appointed a committee to take the preliminary steps for organizing as a corporation under the laws of the Commonwealth.

In the meantime, Mr. A. George Bullock had been unanimously elected a member of the Club, and the name ST. WULSTAN SOCIETY had been adopted as that of the corporation to be organized.

ORGANIZATION.

The corporation was organized on the Second day of January, 1891, as appears by the following copy of the Records:

RECORDS

OF

ST. WULSTAN SOCIETY.

We, whose names are hereto subscribed, do by this agreement associate ourselves with the intention to constitute a corporation according to the provisions of the one hundred and fifteenth chapter of the Public Statutes of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the acts in amendment thereof and in addition thereto.

The name by which the corporation shall be known is ST. WULSTAN SOCIETY.

The purpose for which the corporation is constituted is the promotion of literature, art, historical and social science in Worcester, and holding and administering the Helen C. Knowles legacy for the promotion of art education in Worcester, and such other funds as may be acquired for the same and kindred objects.

The place within which the corporation is established or located is the City of Worcester within said Commonwealth.

In witness whereof we have hereto set our hands this 15th day of December in the year eighteen hundred and ninety.

GEORGE F. HOAR,	HENRY A. MARSH,
J. EVARTS GREENE,	SAMUEL S. GREEN,
HAMILTON B. STAPLES,	DANIEL MERRIMAN,
JOHN J. POWER,	A. G. BULLOCK,
GEORGE E. FRANCIS,	LEONARD WHEELER,
E. HARLOW RUSSELL,	THOMAS L. NELSON,
G. STANLEY HALL,	STEPHEN SALISBURY (per L. A. ELY),
FRANK P. GOULDING,	ALEXANDER H. VINTON.

To George F. Hoar (or other member as the case may be).

You are hereby notified that the first meeting of the subscribers to an agreement to associate themselves with the intention to constitute a Corporation to be known by the name of ST. WULSTAN SOCIETY, dated December 15th, 1890, for the purpose of organizing said Corporation by the adoption of by-laws and election of officers, and the transaction of such other business as may properly come before the meeting, will be held on Friday the second day of January, 1891, at eight o'clock P. M., at the house of Henry A. Marsh, 57 Elm Street, Worcester.

J. EVARTS GREENE,
One of the subscribers to said agreement.

Worcester, Dec. 19, 1890.

FIRST MEETING.

Pursuant to a notice duly issued and served by J. Evarts Greene, one of the subscribers of the Agreement of which a copy is above written, the first meeting of the said subscribers was held at the house of Henry A. Marsh, 57 Elm Street, in said Worcester, on Friday, the second day of January, A. D., 1891, at eight o'clock, P. M., for the purpose of organizing the corporation mentioned in said agreement by the adoption of by-laws and the election of officers and the transaction of such other business as might properly come before the meeting.

There were present at said meeting: George F. Hoar, J. Evarts Greene, Hamilton B. Staples, John J. Power, George E. Francis, E. Harlow Russell, G. Stanley Hall, Frank P. Goulding, Henry A. Marsh, Samuel S. Green, A. George Bullock, Leonard Wheeler, Thomas L. Nelson, and Alexander H. Vinton, each of whom was a subscriber to said agreement.

The meeting having been called to order by Henry A. Marsh, J. Evarts Greene was elected by ballot temporary clerk, and having been duly sworn to the faithful performance of his duties by Frank P. Goulding, Esq., a justice of the peace, presided thereafter in said meeting except as hereinafter recorded.

The following By-Laws were by vote adopted:

BY-LAWS,

ST. WULSTAN SOCIETY.

Section 1.—Membership.

This Society shall consist of the following persons and their successors: George F. Hoar, Stephen Salisbury, Thomas L. Nelson, Daniel Merriman, Frank P. Goulding, Hamilton B. Staples, Leonard Wheeler, Samuel S. Green, Alexander H. Vinton, Henry A. Marsh, John J. Power, George E. Francis, G. Stanley Hall, E. Harlow Russell, A. George Bullock and J. Evarts Greene, all of Worcester. The number of members shall not exceed sixteen. Vacancies in the membership may be filled by vote at any meeting; but no person shall hereafter be elected a member whose name has not been proposed at one meeting at least before that at which he is elected, and no person shall be declared elected unless a majority of the members of the Society shall have voted to proceed to vote upon the question of his election, nor unless such person has received the votes of all the members present and voting.

Section 2.—Disqualifications.

Any member ceasing to be a resident of Worcester shall cease to be a member of this Society. Any member absent from four consecutive meetings without excuse may be considered by the Society, if it shall so vote, as having resigned his membership.

Section 3.—Officers.

The officers of the Society shall be a President, Vice-President, Clerk, Treasurer and two other persons, who, with the President, Vice-President, Clerk and Treasurer, shall constitute the Board of Directors.

Section 4.—Art Commission.

There shall also be a commission of five members, to be known as the Art Commission, who shall, subject to the direction of the Society, administer the Lucius J. Knowles Art Fund for the purposes for which it is held, and likewise any other funds which may be held by the Society for kindred purposes.

Section 5.—Business.

The Commission shall report to the Society at the annual and quarterly meetings all its doings. The consideration of matters in charge of the Commission shall be in order at other meetings only in cases of special necessity and when the Society shall so vote.

Section 6.—Choice and Duties of Officers.

The officers and commissioners aforesaid shall be chosen by ballot at the annual meeting and shall hold office until others are chosen and qualified in their stead. The Clerk shall be sworn to the faithful performance of his duties. The Treasurer shall give bond with such surety and in such sum as shall be required by the Directors. Vacancies in the offices or in the Art Commission may be filled by ballot at any meeting.

Section 7.—Memorial of Lucius J. Knowles.

The Treasurer is authorized to receive from the executors of the late Helen C. Knowles her legacy for the promotion of art education in Worcester and to invest it subject to the direction of the Directors. This legacy shall constitute a fund to be forever maintained as a memorial of the late Lucius J. Knowles, and shall be known as the Lucius J. Knowles Art Fund.

Section 8.—Meetings.

Meetings shall be held fortnightly on Friday evenings at the houses of the members in rotation or at such other suitable place as any member in his turn may elect. The first meeting in October shall be the annual meeting. The first meetings in January and April respectively, in each year, shall be designated quarterly meetings. The fortnightly meetings may be suspended during the summer for such period as the Society may order.

Section 9.—Notice of Meetings.

Notice of meetings shall be given by the Clerk, or in his absence or disability or in case of a vacancy in the office, by any Director, by mail to each member at his residence three days at least before the meeting.

Section 10.—Rules of Business.

The President, or in his absence the Vice-President, shall preside at the annual meetings, and when the business of the Society is transacted, and perform

such other duties as are required by law. At other times the member at whose house the meeting is held shall preside. Any member who shall find himself unable to attend any meeting shall give notice as long as possible before the meeting to the member at whose house the meeting is to be held.

Section 11.—Amendments.

These By-Laws, except as hereinafter provided, may be repealed or amended by a two-thirds vote of the members present at any meeting, provided that notice that a change in the By-Laws is proposed shall have been given at a previous meeting, and such notice shall have been included in the notice of the meeting at which the change is made. The first By-Law may be repealed or amended only by the unanimous vote of all the members of the Society, and so much of the seventh as requires the perpetual maintenance of the Lucius J. Knowles Art Fund as a memorial of the late Lucius J. Knowles may be repealed or amended only by leave of the Court.

CHOICE OF OFFICERS.

Voted to proceed, in accordance with the provisions of the above By-Laws, to elect by ballot six Directors, the ballots designating which Director shall be President, which Vice-President, which Clerk and which Treasurer. Whereupon a ballot was taken and the following persons were unanimously chosen Directors, each having twelve votes: George F. Hoar, Stephen Salisbury, J. Evarts Greene, Henry A. Marsh, John J. Power, Hamilton B. Staples. On each of the ballots George F. Hoar was designated as President, Stephen Salisbury as Vice-President, J. Evarts Greene as Clerk, and Henry A. Marsh as Treasurer. The temporary Clerk declared the election of the Directors above named and of the persons above designated as President, Vice-President, Clerk and Treasurer, respectively.

J. EVARTS GREENE,
Temporary Clerk.

George F. Hoar presided thereafter during the meeting by virtue of the office of President to which he had been elected. J. Evarts Greene, having been elected Clerk, was duly sworn by Frank P. Goulding, Esq., Justice of the Peace, to the faithful performance of the duties of that office.

Voted to proceed to the election by ballot of five persons as members of the Art Commission provided

for in Section 4 of the By-Laws. A ballot was taken and Daniel Merriman, G. Stanley Hall, Alexander H. Vinton, Samuel S. Green and George E. Francis were unanimously elected members of the Commission.

Voted that all matters of expense connected with the organization of the Society be referred to the Clerk and Treasurer as a committee with power to act thereon.

No other business being presented, the meeting adjourned.

J. EVARTS GREENE,
Tem. Clerk and Clerk.

CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION.

No. 4407.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS.

BE IT KNOWN That whereas George F. Hoar, Henry A. Marsh, John J. Power, Hamilton B. Staples, Stephen Salisbury, J. Evarts Greene, George E. Francis, E. Harlow Russell, G. Stanley Hall, Frank P. Goulding, Samuel S. Green, Daniel Merriman, A. G. Bullock, Leonard Wheeler, Thomas L. Nelson and Alexander H. Vinton, have associated themselves with the intention of forming a corporation under the name of the ST. WULSTAN SOCIETY, for the purpose of promoting literature, art, historical and social science in Worcester, and holding and administering the Helen C. Knowles legacy for promoting art education in Worcester, and such other funds as may be acquired for the same and kindred objects, and have complied with the provisions of the Statutes of this Commonwealth in such case made and provided, as appears from the certificate of the President, Treasurer and Directors of said corporation, duly approved by the Commissioner of Corporations, and recorded in this office:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, WILLIAM M. OLIN, Secretary of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Do Hereby Certify that said G. F. Hoar, H. A. Marsh, J. J. Power, H. B. Staples, S. Salisbury, J. E. Greene, G. E. Francis, E. H. Russell, G. S. Hall, F. P. Goulding, S. S. Green, D. Merriman, A. G. Bullock, L. Wheeler, T. L. Nelson and A. H. Vinton, their associates and successors, are legally organized and established as and are hereby made an existing corporation under the name of the ST. WULSTAN SOCIETY, with the powers, rights, and privileges, and subject to the limitations, duties, and restrictions which by law appertain thereto.

WITNESS my official signature hereunto subscribed, and the seal of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts hereunto affixed this fourteenth day of February, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and ninety-one.

WM. M. OLIN,
Secretary of the Commonwealth.

[Seal].

MR. SALISBURY'S GIFT.

At the quarterly meeting of the Society, April 17th, the following letter from the Vice-President, Mr. Salisbury, was presented:

WORCESTER, April 13, 1891.

REV. DR. DANIEL MERRIMAN,

Chairman of the Art Commission of the St. Wulstan Society;

My Dear Sir:

I wish to offer to the St. Wulstan Society in trust for the people of Worcester, a lot of land of at least twenty-five thousand (25,000) feet area, upon the southerly side of Salisbury Street at its junction with Tuckerman Street and opposite the Salisbury Street School-house, as shown upon a plan herewith submitted, to be used by the St. Wulstan Society in erecting thereon a building for purposes of art education.

The only condition expressed in the deed would be that a portion of the building should be erected at an expenditure of not less than twenty thousand ($20,000) dollars, and occupied for art purposes within ten (10) years from its date.

I think that by providing accommodations for art instruction, the two active societies in the city might be induced to co-operate or at least to jointly enjoy the advantages that a permanent abiding place would

give. It is my firm impression that the wisest course would be to make a beginning on a small scale and to develop gradually. If my proposition is accepted I will subscribe ten thousand ($10,000) dollars towards the building.

Very respectfully yours,

STEPHEN SALISBURY.

Mr. Salisbury's generous offer was gratefully accepted and steps were taken to comply with the conditions of his gift.

PAYMENT OF MRS. KNOWLES' LEGACY.

On the 19th day of June, 1891, the executors of Mrs. Knowles' will having been duly authorized by decree of the Probate Court upon their petition, transferred to the Treasurer of St. Wulstan Society, the sum of Twenty-nine Thousand One Hundred Dollars ($29,100), the net proceeds of Mrs. Knowles' legacy, and the clerk, in accordance with a vote of the Society at its meeting March 13th, being satisfied that the legacy had been duly received by the Treasurer, and was held by him upon the trust set forth in the will, and that the Treasurer had given bond as required by the By-Laws, gave to the executors a receipt in the name of the Society for the sum above named.

OFFICERS.

1891.

PRESIDENT:

GEORGE F. HOAR.

VICE-PRESIDENT:

STEPHEN SALISBURY.

CLERK:

J. EVARTS GREENE.

TREASURER:

HENRY A. MARSH.

DIRECTORS:

GEORGE F. HOAR, STEPHEN SALISBURY,
JOHN J. POWER, HAMILTON B. STAPLES,
J. EVARTS GREENE, HENRY A. MARSH.

ART COMMISSION:

DANIEL MERRIMAN, SAMUEL S. GREEN,
G. STANLEY HALL, ALEXANDER H. VINTON,
GEORGE E. FRANCIS.

MEMBERS.

GEORGE F. HOAR,
J. EVARTS GREENE,
HAMILTON B. STAPLES,
JOHN J. POWER,
GEORGE E. FRANCIS,
E. HARLOW RUSSELL,
G. STANLEY HALL,
FRANK P. GOULDING,
HENRY A. MARSH,
SAMUEL S. GREEN,
DANIEL MERRIMAN,
A. GEORGE BULLOCK,
LEONARD WHEELER,
THOMAS L. NELSON,
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